



*Old Corn Exchange, Downing Street 1939 – 68.17*

#### **c.44.6: Cambridge DOWNING STREET & PEMBROKE STREET Scrapbook**

**1900**

1904 03 01

All Cambridge united in welcoming King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to open the new University buildings known as the Sedgwick Museum, the Squire Law Library, Botanical and Medical Schools in Downing Street. Cambridge University has never stagnated but kept pace with the demands of the time. Newer universities have their place in the general scheme of things but they can never supplant our ancient university of Cambridge, nor her twin sister on the banks of the Isis. With the increasing spread of education their prosperity increases.

1905 02 04

There have been whispers of difficulties in connection with the erection of the new premises at the corner of Downing Street, Cambridge, but they appear to have been overcome since this week recommencement of operations has been made. The site was cleared, and for several months nothing further was done. At length the foundations are being put in. Let us hope it won't be long before we are spared the expense of having a special policeman on point duty to regulate the traffic at that corner in consequence of the hoarding that has obstructed the view there for so long. 05 02 04a

1906 01 31

The new Cambridge Liberal Club premises in Downing Street includes an assembly room with a ladies gallery, reading, smoking and games rooms. But it has nothing that can compensate for the loss of the beautiful garden they enjoyed in their old home at Rance's Folly in St Andrew's Street. It will be formally opened by the Solicitor-General. 06 01 31a

1906 12 19

The handsome new Norwich Union building with its ornamental white stone façade finally stands out in bold relief. Downing Street and St Andrew's Street corner is freed from inconvenient hoardings at last. The builder was summonsed for delay in removing them: there were periods when no work was being carried on at all. Throughout construction a policeman had needed to be on point duty at a cost of £250. But he had made genuine attempts to get the work through in a reasonable time. He was fined a nominal one pound. 06 12 19a & b

1910 04 29

The University's new School of Agriculture in Downing Street was opened by the Duke of Devonshire. Designed by Arnold Mitchell it is built of dull red Dutch brick. The floors and staircase are of fireproof construction and the building is heated by hot water and lighted by electricity. It will accommodate 100 students with a lecture room, botanical laboratory, greenhouse and photographic darkroom. 10 04 29 f & g

## **1910**

1910 05 20

The foundation stone of the first block of the new Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at the corner of Downing Street and Tennis Court Road was laid by the Baroness Von Hugel whose husband is the curator. The ceremony was a very quiet one and the proceedings were very brief because of the death of the King. In a cavity under the stone was placed a bottle containing a couple of newspapers and a number of current coins of the realm. 10 05 20

1913 01 03

Whitmore & co, wine merchants in liquidation, based in Downing Street - good stock of vintage wine, catered at Alexandra Palace, owned Bun Shop, Queens Arms

1913 12 19

Charles Dixon said he came to Cambridge 50 years ago as a journeyman tailor and worked from three in the morning till eleven at night. Then he learnt the 'cotton' and took a manager's place in a large firm opposite St Johns after which he opened a business for himself in Downing Street. He worked hard for 40 years and built up a big trade. He built a little mission room in Victoria Street uplifting the fallen, acquired the Hoop Hotel to do away with the licence and plunged into house property. But this went wrong and he'd lost everything 13 12 19 p9

## **1920**

1926 02 13

I am glad to record that the projecting clock near Downing Street, Cambridge, which for many years pointed to "twenty to three", has now been removed. St Paul's church clock, which was badly damaged by a storm last spring, is in such a useful position between the town and the railway station that we would be glad to see it going again. It hardly seems fair that the repair should fall upon the church, when it exists largely for the passers-by

## **1930**

1930 02 24

The successful crews in the Lent bumping races celebrated in traditional manner. Hundreds of excited undergraduates in 'bump supper' costume filled the streets till midnight and over it all flickered the light and smoke of bonfires. Boats were burned amid shouting and bacchanalian merriment at St Catharine's, Selwyn and Emmanuel who for the first time in history had finished head of the river. An 'eight' was sacrificed in the paddock of the college upon a huge pyre. The manoeuvre of getting the boat into the college proved by no means an easy one and traffic was held up as the unwieldy craft, borne on the shoulders of the crews, was shunted into Downing Street before being passed through the

narrow gate. At St Catharine's the boat was escorted to the burning by a procession headed by a band of unemployed ex-Servicemen who had been playing on the towing path. 30 02 24a

1933 02 23

Sir – many a lover of trees mourns the cutting down of the fine Pagoda tree, *Sophora Japonica*, which stood in Downing Street. It was about 200 years old and doubtless adorned the Botanical Garden there before it moved to its present site. A young American who was sadly photographing its headless trunk says it was one of the finest specimens in England. Why do we not value our ancient trees as we do our buildings? - F.P. Leyburn-Yarker. 33 02 23a – photo 33 03 01

1934 11 03

The Cambridge Social Club, all that survived of the old Liberal Club in Downing Street, has been wound up. It moved to Market Passage and for the last five years old party labels have gone by the board. Each year it has been difficult making ends meet but happily the club finished up free from debt. The Ranjitsinhji Billiards Bowl has been offered to the Central Conservative Club and the portrait of its donor to the Hobbs' Pavilion. 34 11 03a

1935 01 31

New street proposed from Downing St towards Sidney St – 35 01 31a

1935 06 04

The Mayor (Ald R. Starr) opened the Cambridge Trustee Savings Bank's new offices in Downing Street. "I believe there are people in this town who do not trust the banks", he said. "They still keep their savings in old stockings and I often come across people who keep their money in old pewter pots. If the people of Cambridge will only feel it is their bank, and that they can deposit their money feeling it is safer than it would be in their own cottages, it would be a good thing". The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Neville Chamberlain, sent a telegram wishing the bank success. 35 06 04 & a

## **1950**

1956 03 08

The lease of 'The Spindle', a little shop selling scarves, woollen items and glass animals in Downing Street, Cambridge has been extended. But the rent will increase from £150 to £260 a year. Miss Maud Pattinson said she took the premises in 1935 and converted storage space above the shop into living accommodation. During the war years – 'the American invasion' – she made a good profit. But it was a 'poky little place and Downing Street was a 'dead street' for shopping. 56 03 08

1959 08 31

Research and experimental work in the University's Department of Metallurgy in Pembroke Street was brought to a standstill following a serious blaze. Flames came through the roof, two rooms were gutted and a laboratory severely affected. Water used to fight the fire seeped into the basement and caused a great deal of damage to expensive machinery. 59 08 31a & b

1959 10 01

Cambridge University's science departments were first to occupy the central area and there is now a great concentration of laboratories on either side of Downing Street. The few open spaces between them are already overflowing with cars. There is no room to allow for the growth of research and teaching in subjects outside the established hierarchy, Lord Adrian, the retiring Vice-Chancellor told academics. Science has enlarged its premises so much that the arts faculties could not begrudge their expansion across the river. 59 10 01c

1959 12 03

The Inquiry into the Lion Yard scheme was told that the Petty Cury frontage should be excluded from redevelopment: the present useful buildings would be preserved and the character of the street maintained. But Planners said they could not be adequately served as they lacked any rear access.

Runciman's veterinary premises in Downing Street had been used for 150 years and were specially designed for the purpose. They have dealt with animals as small as a mouse and as large as an elephant. The proposed replacement buildings were incompatible with the character of Cambridge. 59 12 03 & a & 04 & 04a

1959 12 10

The University's new Department of Chemical Engineering building in Pembroke Street was opened by the Chairman of Shell. The firm had made a grant of half-a-million pounds and since the first Shell Professor took up his appointment in 1946, 187 students have graduated. They carry out a research programme during their final year instead of a formal laboratory course and already some information of genuine value had been obtained. In its early days the Department was housed in a temporary building in Tennis Court Road before finding a permanent site next to the Cavendish and Zoology Laboratories. 59 12 10a

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date***

***1960***

1960 02 16

Preparations are being made for the rebuilding of the Department of Metallurgy laboratories in Downing Street, which were destroyed by fire in August. The old building was quite useless for research and the new part will be box shaped and built of steel and concrete fire-proofed to guard against further outbreaks. At the time of the blaze research in metal corrosion 'of national importance' was being carried out. 60 02 16a

1960 12 07

The Low Temperature Research Station, Downing Street, is a strange place. Occasionally in some forgotten corner of one of its temperature-controlled rooms, one comes across perfectly preserved war-time stew that was meant for the civilian population but never produced in great quantities. At that time the Station was responsible for producing the 24-hour battle pack of dried food for the Commandoes who went across to France for D-Day. Now they are investigating why potatoes go brown after they have been peeled and chemically examining peas to discover why they lose sweetness and juiciness in the three days between being picked and canned. 60 12 07d

1961 03 29

University plans for the New Museums site off Downing Street include an underground ring road with parking for 300 cars and 1,400 cycles. A maze of narrow passages would be replaced with pedestrian walkways six feet above ground. Many old dilapidated buildings will be demolished and two 15-storey high blocks for the Department of Mathematics erected. These 'skyscrapers' might not be built to their full height immediately but would gradually grow as the department needed more space. The 1934 Zoology building, the Shell chemical engineering laboratory and the Physics Department's high tension laboratory would be retained 61 03 29 & 30, 61 03 31

1961 07 01

The Roe family has been well known in Cambridge since Joseph Roe started in the antiques trade in Petty Cury in 1826. Now one more facet of the old times will disappear with the demolition of their shop on the corner of Christ's Lane and St Andrew's Street. It has been in existence since 1882, having been rebuilt in 1897. New buildings will rise on the site in keeping with the contemporary Bradwell's Court. The business has relocated to Downing Street where it will be continued by Owen Roe. 61 07 01a

1963 11 26

The Beatles, the current idols of Britain's teenagers, were smuggled into Cambridge by the City Police in a Black Maria. They were driven into the Downing Street site then rushed into the rear entrance of the Regal Cinema before 200 screaming girls broke through the police cordon and dashed

along Downing Place. Once inside the doors were slammed shut. Police will not let them out until after the last performance. Every available Cambridge policeman is ready for duty. But the elaborate security measures taken to prevent demonstrations before they were due to appear at the Regal Cinema went wrong: police were due to meet the Beatles' car near Trumpington but they had almost reached Lensfield Road before it was spotted 63 11 26

1964 01 06

Plans for redevelopment on corner of Downing Street and for a four storey building with bank and penthouse on the roof on New Theatre site 64 01 06

1965 02 03

Inquiry into development Downing St – St Andrews St – 65 02 03b

1965 05 24

Minister rejects plan for redeveloping Downing Street, Downing Place & St Andrew's Street triangle – 65 05 24, 24b

1965 08 25

Demolition at Zoological site, Downing St – photo – 65 08 25a, b

## **1970**

1971 07 17

Runciman's veterinary surgeons: profile of Cambridge business; has just moved from Downing Street to Chesterton Road – 71 07 17

1972 01 18

Norwich Union building, corner St Andrew's Street and Downing Street – history – 72 01 18 & a b

1972 02 02

Downing Street veterinary surgery used by Runciman, built as part of former Bird Bolt Hotel, demolished – photo – 72 02 02

1973 04 12

The £2¼ m complex for the Cavendish Laboratory on Madingley Road, Cambridge, was declared open by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. A.W. Deer. Large earth banks will hide the new Cavendish site from the Cambridge Inner Relief Road, if it is ever built, and it is hoped the University will not continue to crowd buildings in upon the new site until it achieves another science slum like that left behind in Downing Street

1975 03 25

Cambridge pubs range from grimy to gracious according to a drinker's guide just published by a group of undergraduates. Grime, according to the guide, is synonymous with the Locomotive pub in Mill Road, and grace is one of the virtues of the Plough Inn at Fen Ditton. Praise is lavished on the "thematic scheme" of the Galleon bar in the Burleigh Arms, Newmarket Road. The Free Press has "exceptional character" and the Baker's Arms, East Road, is called a "refreshing surprise". The Bun Shop, Downing Street is said to be "something of a Cambridge institution and well worth a visit"

1975 09 29

Number 10 Downing Street, Cambridge, the new Norwich Union Building has been 'topped out'. It replaces the former building on the corner of St Andrew's Street. There were some protests about the loss of the old buildings but planning permission was eventually given after the Royal Fine Art Commission approved the designs.

1976 07 24

## Downing Street cycle way

1977 05 26

Police Sergeant Ray Dukes was proceeding in an easterly direction at midnight when he spotted something irregular – a giant turtle walking along Downing Street, Cambridge. It was not just an ordinary giant turtle, it was a giant snapping turtle and it was very angry. Taking care to avoid the snapping jaws, which can chop off a finger without too much trouble, he carried the turtle into the nearby Department of Zoology. The only person there was the night porter, Mr Charles Willard, who promptly locked it up for the night. Now the police are appealing for its owner to come forward and claim it